THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) The Consumer Courts set up under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 are serving the purpose for which they are wet up under the Act. They are functioning as per procedure laid down in the Act and the Rules framed thereunder.

(c) and (d) According to the information sent by Govt. of NCT of Delhi, 11410 cases were pending in consumer courts in Delhi as on 31-7-95. The oldest case is pending from 1990 in Delhi State Commission. The State Government is making all efforts for establishing two more District Fora for the speedy disposal of the cases.

Central Assistance for Clearing Arrears of Consumer Courts

1466. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had provided central assistance amounting to Rs. 61 crores for improving the image of the department in clearing the arrears in Consumer Courts;

(b) if so, the break-up of the expenditure incurred from the central aid; and

(c) how far the grant has eased the position of consumer courts in disposing of cases?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The Central Government has agreed to provide a financial assistance of Rs. 61 crores in four half yearly instalments to the State Governments/UT Administrations to strengthen the infrastructure of the consumer courts set up under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

(b) and (c) The Government has sanctioned Rs. 5 crores on 27-7-95 as a part of the first instalment to the States/UTs. It is too early to assess its impact on the disposal of cases by consumer courts.

Procurement of Foodgrains by FCI

1467. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 104 given in the Rajya Sabha on 31st July, 1995 and state:

(a) the quantity of wheat and rice procured by the Food Corporation of India in the country so far and the total storage capacity available in the warehouses therefor;

(b) whether the available storage capacity is not adequate to preserve all the procured wheat and rice; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to ensure that the procured wheat and rice do not suffer damage as a result of their lying in the open in an unscientific manner?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) the quantity of wheat and rice procured by the Food Corporation of India in the country for central pool during current Rabi 1995-96 and Kharif 1994-95 and the total storage capacity available with FCI as on 1-7-1995 are as under:

(in the tonnes)

I. Quantity Procured	
(i) Wheat (Rabi 1995-96)	122.83
(ii) Paddy (Kharif 1994-95)	81.62
(iii) Levy Rice (Kharif 1994-95)	77.81
TOTAL:	282.26
II. Total storage capacity (as on 1-7-1995)	
(i) Covered	231.10
(ii) Covered and Plinth (CAP)	56.93
TOTAL:	288.03